

**Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
Richard Bong State Recreation Area  
Class 1 & 2 Field Trial and Dog Training Grounds  
Management Plan  
2014-2018**



## **I. Introduction**

This is a cooperative plan between the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and the Richard Bong Field Trial Association (RBFTA) for the management of the Class 1 & 2 Field Trial Grounds located at Richard Bong State Recreation Area (RBSRA). This agreement recognizes that the Special Use Zone (SUZ) is important to multiple users including ATVs and rocketeers, and attempts to provide a use pattern conducive to all users with a priority for dog trainers and trialers in the Class 1 Grounds. The plan was developed over the course of several joint meetings during 2012-13 by representatives of the WDNR and the various dog trainers/trialers that utilize the property. This document will provide guidance for the usage of the dog trial grounds through the year 2018, at which time it will be reviewed and revised as needed. Both parties recognize that this is a working plan and short-term modifications may be needed due to extenuating circumstances. Any departures from this plan must be approved by the WDNR RBSRA property manager or may result in a revocation of privileges as described here.

## **II. Statutory Authorizations and Regulations**

### **a. Federal Funding Assistance Authorizations and Prohibitions**

Pittman-Robertson (PR) funds were not used to purchase any lands at Richard Bong State Recreation Area but PR funds have been used for habitat management activities on the dog-training grounds at Richard Bong. Chapters 522 FW 21 and 522 FW 22 of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Directives on Federal Funding Assistance regarding lands that are acquired, developed, or managed with federal funds *prohibit a state fish and wildlife agency from allowing recreational activities and related facilities that would interfere with the purpose for which the state acquired, developed, or is managing the land* (Appendix A). This means that the WDNR may not allow an activity or facility that would interfere with the fulfillment of the grant objectives for restoration, conservation management, and/or enhancement of fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats. However, States may allow recreational activities and related facilities that are not fish or wildlife-dependent if they determine that the activities will not interfere with the purpose for which they acquired, developed, or are managing the land.

### **b. Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapter NR 1**

The Wisconsin Natural Resources Board (NRB) sets policy for the WDNR under Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapter NR 1. Section NR 1.11 (12) states *“The Natural Resources Board strongly encourages the use of well-trained hunting dogs in the pursuit and retrieval of game; that extensive training and field trial competition provide hunting dogs which are proficient at finding and retrieving more game; and that the department will actively participate in programs which assist and encourage the training of hunting dogs including the designation and management of specific state controlled lands for trials and training provided this use does not conflict with the primary purpose of the property”*.

**c. Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapter NR 17**

Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapter NR 17 pertains exclusively to dog training and trialing. This code established the rules and regulations of dog training and trialing in Wisconsin, and lists a portion of Richard Bong State Recreation Area as a Class 1 Dog Training Ground (NR17.05(1)) and a Class 1 Field Trial Grounds (NR17.10(1)). According to NR17:

- i. Class 1 dog training grounds are those posted, marked or designated department lands where dog training is authorized year-round. Dog trainers may use equine animals where approved by the department or by posted notice.
- ii. Class 2 dog training grounds are those department lands not established in sub. (1), but are designated on the license and approved by the department. The department may deny or restrict dog training on department lands if dog training is determined to be inconsistent with the master plan, property plan, wildlife management objectives, or federal requirements.
- iii. Class 1 field trial grounds are those posted, marked or designated department lands where dog trials are authorized year-round, except hunting shall have priority.
- iv. Class 2 field trial grounds are those department lands not established in sub. (1), and designated on the field trial license and approved by the department. The department may deny or restrict dog training on department lands if dog training is determined to be inconsistent with the master plan, property plan, wildlife management objectives, or federal requirements.

**III. Purpose and Scope of Field Trial Grounds at Richard Bong State Recreation Area**

The purpose of the Richard Bong State Recreation Area is to provide a place where visitors may engage in a variety of recreational activities, including some not typically allowed in Wisconsin State Parks. Dog training and trialing are two such activities.

**IV. History of Richard Bong SRA**

Richard Bong State Recreation Area, originally named Bong Recreation Area, was farmland from the 1840s until the mid-1950s when the United States Air Force began development of a Strategic Air Command Base. Numerous farms and homesteads were displaced and the land was significantly altered by earth-moving equipment. In 1959, the project was abruptly abandoned by the Air Force. The Bong Commission was organized to oversee the eventual acquisition and development of the land by various entities between 1960 and 1974. While ownership was litigated and future management pondered, outdoor enthusiasts engaged in a variety of activities on the abandoned air base.

The Bong Commission stated that due to the extensive alterations carried out by the military “Returning this land to agriculture was considered impossible as the topsoil had been stripped” on the southern half of the site. The public could be served however by recognizing the activities that found the landscape suitable and had become prevalent. Per the Bong Commission’s recommendation “Use of the wetland-dotted Bong site has generally been for wildlife conservation and light extensive forms of recreation. Some of the land will be used for

recreation and open space while some of the land will be used for wildlife and conservation all in accord with the deeds” (Bong Recreation Area Master Plan, May 1979). In 1974, the WDNR obtained clear title to 4,515 acres of the Bong Air Force Base lands at a cost of \$658,284.45.

The vision of diverse, non-typical, extensive forms of recreation sharing a multi-use space was designated for the Specialized Uses Area as it was named in the Bong Recreation Area Master Plan of May, 1979. This managed area is now referred to as the Special Use Zone (SUZ). Of the eight Property Objectives established in the Master Plan for the Bong Recreation Area, Objective 6 states: “Provide open space land area for competitive sport events and other recreational activities such as, but not limited to, dog trials, model airplane flying, dog sledding, model rocket launching, cross-country foot races, hay rides, mini-bike trails, steeple chase, sleigh rides and sky diving, with the understanding that the department will continue to evaluate such uses to determine their compatibility with the overall goals and carrying capacity of the property.” The compatibility of different uses was addressed and a framework established for sharing the SUZ. Compatibility is based on considerations of safety, land conditions, environmental conditions, noise or other disturbances, and event size.

#### **V. Richard Bong Field Trial Association History**

Originally, the RBSRA dog trial grounds were located north of highway BB in the northeast corner of the property and trials were held there under the jurisdiction of the Wisconsin Amateur Field Trial Clubs (WAFTC). Following the finalization of the RBSRA Master Plan in 1979, the field trial and training activities were moved to the Class 1 and Class 2 field trial grounds in the newly created SUZ south of Highway 142.

Moving the dog training and trialing to the SUZ seemed practical at the time, but a mounting number of people involved in diverse recreational activities has resulted in user conflicts at times. A dedicated effort to eliminate, or at least reduce these conflicts is under way by the WDNR Parks Program.

Following the tentative approval of the Richard Bong Master Plan in 1976, the WAFTC approved the establishment of the Bong Field Trial Association (BFTA) to assist in the scheduling of dog events at Bong and convey that schedule to the WAFTC. The BFTA was formed as a not-for-profit organization, working closely with the WAFTC, to assist in scheduling dog events and to help eliminate the scheduling conflicts at Bong. From the beginning, the BFTA has worked closely and in cooperation with the Richard Bong Administrators to assist in maintenance issues that would benefit all users of the property. Additionally, The Bong Field Trial Association and its members work together to foster interest in training and testing of all sporting dogs, assist in grounds maintenance issues, and help in the development of wildlife habitat and dog training areas.

The BFTA soon grew to more than 20 different dog clubs, each hosting training and trialing events at Bong. The BFTA membership dues were set at \$1 for each dog entered in a licensed event and those funds would be used towards maintenance and other projects at the Bong Recreation Area. As the number of member clubs began to decline and funds and assistance

from the WDNR has varied it was obvious that the \$1 per dog was not creating enough income to cover most of the projects. Additional funding for most projects came from special donations by clubs and individuals to off-set the short fall of funds available from the BFTA.

In March, 2011, the Constitution and By-laws of the BFTA were revised. Per the request of the RBSRA Superintendent, the name of the Association was changed to the Richard Bong Field Trial Association (RBFTA). Additionally, to address the need for more funds, the members voted to increase the dues to \$2 per dog for any reserved event or a flat fee of \$50, whichever was greater. Because the officers of the RBFTA believe the loss of member clubs in the RBFTA is due to both economic conditions and usage and maintenance conflicts in the class 1 and class 2 training grounds, we hope that the newly developed usage guidelines for the class 1 and 2 grounds, the revised long term maintenance agreement with the WDNR, and the additional funds available for improvements will restore the RBFTA membership to what it once was. The officers and members of the RBFTA are dedicated to the improvements necessary to achieve these goals.

#### **VI. Description of the SUZ and Class 1 Dog Training Grounds**

The 1,200 acre SUZ is located in the southwest portion of the 4,515 acre property within the Town of Brighton, Kenosha County, Wisconsin.

The SUZ features a 2.5 mile paved road, six parking areas along its length and three service roads to access the 2.5 mile gravel abandoned runway. The SUZ encompasses the area from the paved SUZ road at parking lot D to the south property boundary, west to Hwy J, north to the property border (less 100 acres of the Sunset Campground designated use area), east to the western edge of the wildlife refuge, south to the SUZ road, and east to Lot D (See Map. 1). The facilities at lot E are dedicated to the SUZ and include over six acres of parking, an enclosed shelter building with electricity, large grill, shaded picnic area, all-season restrooms, and pressurized well.

The Class 1 Field Trial grounds are 400 acres in the western half of the SUZ in parts of Sections 17, 18, and 20 of Township 2N, Range 20E. This includes a foot trial only area east of Highway J, and south of Highway 142 that encompasses the \$4 flowage. Features of the Class 1 grounds include six water areas (Technical Pond, Cigar Pond, Stick Pond, East and West Retriever Ponds, 4\$ Flowage, and Gravel Ponds), berms, the 'plateau', puppy training area, and convenient parking.

#### **VII. Description of Vegetative Communities**

The overall habitat goal of RBSRA is to maintain and restore native vegetative communities and manage disturbed areas as surrogate grasslands. In pre-settlement times, this part of Kenosha County supported community types such as oak openings, oak savannas, wetlands, and prairies. The property was farmed from the 1840's until construction on the Strategic Air Command Base began in the mid-1950s. By 1959 the project was halted but not before the majority of the property south of HWY 142 had extensive alterations made to it including stripping of top soil, installation of an underground sewer system, changing of elevations and drainage patterns, and

excavating of soil and installation of gravel for a runway. Based on soil types, the disturbed areas, including the majority of the field trial grounds, are designated as Clayey land. In reference to Richard Bong this is an area that has been cut, filled, leveled, and covered with 4 to 5 inches of topsoil, and is not well suited to plant growth. The northern and southern sides of the field trial grounds, outside of active training areas, were not disturbed and still have pockets of native soils that support hardwoods and prairies.

While the Clayey soils are not well suited for plant growth, the area still supports some vegetative diversity. The area actively used for dog training supports various grasses and forbs. The dominant grasses are cool season grasses, including brome grass, reed canary grass, and Kentucky bluegrass. The area also supports warm season grasses, which were planted by Wildlife staff in strips throughout the Class I grounds. Warm season grasses planted include big bluestem, switch grass, Indian grass, and little bluestem. The area also supports various remnant forbs that may be the result of the seed bank such as prairie dock, blue-eye & yellow star grass, phlox, gray goldenrod, spiderwort, and blazing star. Other forb species present include several goldenrod species, New England aster, sunflower, yellow coneflower, Queen Anne's lace, and common mullein.

Due to the Clayey soils most of the field trial grounds tend to be damp and there are certain areas that are saturated or have standing water. These wet areas are located along the center of the grounds, the SUZ Park Road, and the runway. Vegetation in these areas includes cattails, sedges, rushes, and Phragmites.

Woody vegetation in the Class I grounds can be found in small hardwood lots, shrub thickets, or as scattered trees. The Class I grounds has several small areas of hardwoods on the north side in the Foot Trail Area, in the south area north of the Cigar Pond, and north of the Retriever Ponds. Woody species in these woods include oaks, black cherry, shagbark hickories, box elder, black walnut, black locust, eastern cottonwood, buckthorn, and honeysuckle. Woody vegetation in the active training areas includes grey dogwood, wild plum, and sandbar willow. These areas also have scattered trees located throughout the grounds primarily eastern cottonwood and cedars, with a few box elders and ash.

Invasive herbaceous vegetation in the field trial grounds includes yellow and white sweet clover, teasel, spotted knapweed, and leafy spurge.

## **VIII. Habitat and Grounds Management**

### **a. RBFTA Use of WDNR equipment**

Management of the Class I grounds is done jointly by the WDNR and the RBFTA. It has been agreed that:

- i. RBFTA can operate state fleet equipment to carry out management work. To operate the fleet equipment selected RBFTA members must first become certified operators by completing practice runs on the equipment and passing a test under the direction of a WDNR equipment certifier. DNR will provide

training opportunities to a limited number of RBFTA members to assist with certification.

- ii. When planning use of WDNR equipment the RBFTA members should give the state at least three days' notice. It is believed that most of the RBFTA equipment use will be on evenings or weekends. Weekday use may be possible if equipment is available.
- iii. RBFTA will be responsible for covering equipment costs associated with trial and training mowing above and beyond the approximately \$1,000 allocated in the RBSRA budget for mowing each fiscal year. RBFTA and property superintendent will agree in advance of invasive work to be completed by RBFTA. This work will not be charged to the RBFTA account, but will be charged to RBSRA invasive account. RBFTA will make a donation to a WDNR gift account to cover any excess mowing costs. Mowing in excess of \$1,000 will be charged to this gift account.
- iv. RBFTA can apply herbicide on the Class I grounds. Any person applying herbicide must be a state licensed pesticide applicator.
- v. RBFTA members can use department herbicide and application equipment (handheld, backpack, and ATV sprayers) for invasive species control projects. RBFTA members must give the department at least a one week's notice when planning to use state equipment or supplies and will be responsible for any repairs due to negligence.
- vi. When planning to apply herbicide RBFTA members must provide WDNR staff an application plan one week in advance with: 1) date(s) of the application; 2) location and approximate size of application; 3) target species; and 4) what type and how much herbicide is proposed. RBFTA members using herbicide must complete an herbicide application log and submit monthly to the RBSRA staff.

**b. Mowing**

Vegetation mowing is a major component of Class I and 2 grounds management. In this plan three types of mowing have been identified: 1) mowing for training; 2) mowing for trials, and 3) mowing for invasive plant management. The timing of these mowing activities will vary. The RBFTA will do the training and trial mowing and the RBFTA and Department will do the invasive mowing. See Maps 1 & 2 for mowing areas.

**i. Class 1 Mowing**

1. The bowl (12 ac), plateau (12 ac), pines (2 ac), gravel ponds (12 ac), north of the technical pond (8 ac), north of the cigar pond (3ac), and stick pond (14 ac) training areas
  - a. Mowing can occur after June 1 to a minimum height of 12".
2. The puppy training area (a small part of the stick pond area)
  - a. Mowing can occur after May 1 to a minimum height of 3". This area will be marked in the field.
3. Area between the runway and the park SUZ road and area south of the runway and east of the Henslow's area (100 ac)

- a. Mowing can occur after July 1 to a minimum height of 12". RBFTA can mow up to 50% of the vegetation in this area in any given year. This includes linear paths for trainers and trialers.
  - 4. Henslow's Sparrow Area
    - a. 1/3 of this area may be mowed every year on a rotational basis after July 1. Area will be marked in the field by department staff.
- ii. Class II Mowing
  - 1. Mowing can occur after July 15<sup>th</sup> to a minimum height of 12". RBFTA can mow up to 50% of the vegetation in this area in any given year. This includes linear paths for trainers and trialers.
- iii. Invasive mowing
  - 1. This mowing will occur throughout the year to address the invasive species problems, mainly sweet clover and brush control. WDNR will cover these costs as funding allows.

**c. Invasive Species Control**

The RBFTA and the WDNR have identified the following species of herbaceous and woody vegetation for control or removal from the Class I & II grounds: yellow & white sweet clover, Phragmites, teasel, Queen Anne's lace, sandbar willow, black locust, cattails, and cottonwood.

i. Woody Vegetation

The woody vegetation issues in the Class I areas are in two categories: active training areas and non-training areas.

1. Active training areas

The woody vegetation in these areas consists of small to medium sized shrub thickets and scattered trees in the Trial Area, the Bowl, Stick Pond Area, and the Plateau. These areas can be dealt with by mowing and herbicide application on the re-sprouts (2% Glyphosate, 2% Garlon) or cut stump treatment (20% Glyphosate, 15% Garlon), which can be done by both groups. Prior to the mowing season the RBFTA and WDNR staff will evaluate which areas of brush or trees should be mowed and treated and who will perform the work.

2. Non-training areas

These areas have dense thickets of brush making them highly inaccessible for park users and providing minimal wildlife habitat. Currently the RBFTA and the department do not have funding available to do large scale management of these areas (i.e., fecon mowing, etc.). If the department and RBFTA want to improve these areas for training/trialing and wildlife habitat, both groups will need to find other funding sources to carry out the work. On RBFTA/Dog Training Club work days a plan for brush removal must be submitted for review to park staff at least one week in advance of the work day.



ii. Sweet Clover

The sweet clover stands are uneven in age and require that several management strategies be used to address the problem, controlled burning, mowing, and herbicide application {Transline (2/3 pint/ac), Milestone (5oz/ac), or Escort (1oz/ac)}. Each year the sweet clover status will have to be evaluated to determine which tools will be necessary for that year. Controlled burning will be the primary tool along with herbicide and mowing.

iii. Teasel

Patches of teasel have appeared in the Class I grounds, mainly the Trial area between the park road and the runway, but the infestation is in the early stages. Control and elimination may be possible through mechanical methods with some chemical application. Control work can be done by both groups. Stalks can be cut just before flowering and rosettes can be dug up like dandelions. Rosettes remain green late into the fall and early in the spring, making herbicides treatment easier with low risk to native species. Application should be made with temps 50°F or higher. Herbicides that can be used include 1.5 – 2% Glyphosate or 2% Triclopyr (Garlon 3A & 4) - applied to foliage or stems before flower stalk emerges.

d. **Timber Management**

Over the last several years the WDNR Forester has hired contractors to treat black locust stands on RBSRA. Some of these treated stands are located in the Class I grounds. To date all of the black locust stands in the Class I grounds have been treated. To help with the removal of the treated trees the department will sell these stands to the public as firewood during the late fall and winter. The Forester will continue treatment of these areas to insure the black locust stands do not come back pending availability of funding.

e. **Cattail Management**

On several ponds- the Cigar Pond and \$4 Flowage- cattail encroachment has affected access to the water and reduced the amount of open water for dog training. See below for details on management activities to address this.

f. **Cigar Pond**

Prior to 2012 this pond had developed a thick fringe of cattails. The pond was dredged during the summer of 2012 by RBFTA to deepen the pond and remove cattails. The retriever groups prefer deeper water with sparse vegetation while the NAVDA group prefers thicker shoreline cover. Therefore the objective here will be to maintain a balance of sparse and dense vegetation. To that end, annual vegetative management may be necessary to improve the area for training purposes. The vegetation on the north side of the pond, cattails and reed canary grass, can be mowed after July 1st with the vegetation height being maintained between 12 – 24 inches. The pond peninsulas may be mowed starting June 1. A six foot buffer of un-mowed vegetation must be maintained around the two department waterfowl blinds to provide cover for waterfowl

hunters. The department will do cattail treatment with herbicide in the southeast corner and along the southern edge of the Cigar Pond to reduce the dense cattail stands in 2013- 14. The Parks program will work with the RBFTA to locate elevated stands, approximately 3 feet high, for increased handler visibility.

g. **\$4 Flowage**

Cattail encroachment on this flowage has reduced water access and the amount of open water for training purposes and waterfowl hunting. The WDNR will improve water access by managing the cattail fringe on the east side of the flowage in 2013-14 and in the southwest corner in 2014-15 through a combination of mowing and herbicide application (5% Polaris). When possible the cattails will be mowed with the skid steer and will be followed up with herbicide application on the re-sprouts during the growing season. When mowing is not possible due to wet conditions, the cattails will be sprayed with herbicide during the summer.

Eurasian milfoil is also a problem in the flowage, making it almost unusable for dog trainers and waterfowl hunters at times. The flowage does not have an outlet and cannot be drained, limiting the treatment options to chemical only. The chemical treatment would have to be done by a contractor at an estimated cost of \$300- \$400 per acre. The treatment would have to be repeated, possibly every two to three years. WDNR water resources, fisheries, parks, and wildlife staff met last fall and are looking at possible funding options to pay for the treatment.

The RBSRA is in need of additional dog training areas that offer a consistent water level for dogs to swim along with significant cover to search cover for waterfowl. Currently Bong offers two areas (Cigar Pond and West Retriever Pond) that unfortunately are subject to fluctuating water levels, and in recent years have either been dry or have not offered much in swimming depth. The Northern Illinois Chapter of The North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association (NAVHDA) is proposing to install visual barriers in \$4 Flowage to improve training cover. The barriers would consist of cut logs and/or woody debris being placed vertically into the bottom of the pond, simulating flooded timber. The woody debris would be placed in one to two lines, running north- south in the ponds. WDNR Wildlife and Parks staff approve of this project. NAVHDA is prepared to move on the project upon issuance of necessary permits.

h. **Disking Project**

Over the years the Class I grounds have developed pockmarks due to horse traffic in the Clayey soils. These pockmarks make training and trialing difficult, in addition to affecting foot traffic. To address this issue a plan has been introduced to work up affected areas by shallow disking (or other to-be-approved means of rejuvenating the affected areas). The location would be worked up, seeded, and left to settle for a period of time (TBD). The RBFTA's long term goal for this plan is to break the Class I grounds into blocks and treat a different block each year. To determine if this strategy would be effective a test plot has been identified in the southern part of the Class I grounds (See

Map 1). At this time the testing has not been scheduled. The RBFTA will be responsible for the disking and seeding the area. Once the test plot has been completed the results will be reviewed by the Department and RBFTA. If it's deemed that the treatment was a success and is not a detriment to the resource a more detailed plan will be written to outline future treatments.

**i. Prescribed Burning**

- i. Due to the variety of rare/threatened species that may be present in the field trial grounds area, prescribed burning is usually restricted to early spring or late fall. Tentative burn schedule is as follows:
  1. 2013: Units 14A, 14B
  2. 2014: Units 14B, 15A, 15B
  3. 2015: Units 14A, 14B, 16
  4. 2016: Unit 8
  5. 2017: Unit 14A, 14B
- ii. Due to Clayey soils the SUZ can become very wet at times limiting burning opportunities. Much of the area is also dominated by cool season grasses which can green up very early in the spring affecting the timing and the ability to conduct prescribed burns. This may result in burning plans to be pushed into the fall or a following year.
- iii. Response of the sweet clover to management may change the scheduling of some burns. The sweet clover is most severe in burn units 14A, 14B, & 16.

**IX. Facility Maintenance**

Maintenance and repair of the Richard Bong SRA facilities and grounds are under the direction of the WDNR. The WDNR's responsibility for maintenance within the Class 1 grounds and the facilities at Lot E include:

- a. Well water testing
- b. Boundary post and sign maintenance
- c. Electrical, heating and plumbing maintenance, including routine furnace maintenance costs once installed. Large furnace repairs and replacement would likely require a financial contribution from the RBFTA.
- d. Runway, service road and parking lot conditions monitoring, closing when necessary
- e. Service road and runway maintenance and grading on a 2-3 year cycle, or as funding supports
- f. Building maintenance at Lot E
- g. Invasive species monitoring and control as funding allow
- h. Snow plowing on the SUZ road will be done as needed. Snow removal from the paved parking lots will occur whenever there is a group reservation. Snow removal from paved parking lots at other times will be done within the constraints of budgets and staffing.

The Club(s) reserving the grounds and facilities, and the RBFTA are responsible for:

- a. Checking the suitability, availability, and condition of the Pavilion at Lot E in advance and prior to use.

- b. Notifying the property manager of any deficiencies or concerns prior to use and ensuring the Pavilion is left in as good or better condition than found.
- c. Delivery, placement, use, and removal of waste and recycling receptacles. Adhering to the 'Carry –in, Carry-out' policies of Wisconsin State Parks.
- d. Delivery, placement, pumping, and removal of portable toilets if used.
- e. All maintenance and proper care of birds and pens used at events.
- f. Removing all markers after events and repairing any rutting or damage that may have occurred from vehicles or animals.

## **X. Operations and Rules**

### **a. Scheduling**

- i. Trial dates may occur from January 1 through the Thursday prior to the opening of the pheasant hunting season (opens the Saturday nearest to October 17).
- ii. Special Use Zone events for the year are scheduled at the RBFTA meeting in early January. All applications and monies for reservations made at that meeting shall be received by the property by February 15. Events not paid in full by February 15 may be subject to cancellation.
- iii. An annual SUZ calendar, including trials, shall be published by the property by February 15.
- iv. Additional event dates must first be approved by the RBFTA then by the property manager. Requests must be received not less than 10 days in advance of the requested date.
- v. Scheduling shall be approved subject to the Special Use Zone Calendar in accordance with Code 45.13(17).
- vi. Proof of insurance must be received at least thirty days prior to scheduled event. Failure to do so may result in cancellation of the event.
- vii. Events must be confirmed or canceled with the property manager or designee no later than 4 P.M. the Tuesday before the event.
- viii. Users must notify property staff before changing event location from original reservation.

## **XI. Rules & Requests**

### **a. General**

- i. All rules of NR 45, 17.06, 17.09, 17.10 will be enforced.
- ii. Trial coordinators should inform all event participants of the required vehicle admission fees and applicable rules.
- iii. Training and trial participants should take precautions to avoid the introduction or spread of invasive species to or from the property by cleaning invasive plant material from vehicles, trailers, equipment, clothing, and dogs prior to entering and leaving RBSRA.

### **b. Parking & Roads**

- i. Dog trial participants may camp in Parking Lot E with permission by property manager and under specific conditions.

- ii. All vehicles must be parked in lots, on the runway, or on gravel along the side of Service Road J (without impeding traffic). No parking on any other service roads, unless pre-approved by park superintendent. They and the runway must be kept clear at all times for emergency vehicle access.
  - iii. Trial coordinators should post a minimum of three road-side signs that direct participants from the entrance station to the event's check-in location and remove them after the event.
  - iv. Additional Parking is available at the east end of the Cigar pond
    - 1. Development of a parking lot on this site will occur in 2013-14. This parking lot will be closed annually from the Thursday prior to the opening of pheasant season - December 31.
- c. Special Events Recreational Use Application and License (DNR Form 2200-127)
  - i. Special Events Use Licenses are required by the Department when any user or user group wishes to hold an event or conduct an activity on state owned lands that would affect normal public use and/or restrict other public access to an area of the property. Activities that otherwise would not be allowed under Department administrative rules also need a Special Events Use License application. The Department's authority to restrict use and accommodate special requests is through the issuance of the Special Events Use License.
  - ii. To apply for a Special Events Use License to use state-owned land for recreational events, applicants are required to provide information requested on this form. Submittal of this form constitutes an agreement with the Department of Natural Resources, under ss. 23.09(2)(h) and 27.01(2)(d-f), Wis. Stats. The Department will be unable to process agreements unless all of the information requested is provided. Personally identifiable information collected will be used for administrative and enforcement purposes and may also be provided to requesters as required under Wisconsin Open Records law [ss. 19.31 - 19.39, Wis. Stats.].
  - iii. Each scheduled dog trial and training event must have a separate Special Events Use License on file with the Department, in addition to the annual Dog Training and Trialing License, if one of the above conditions in section (c. i) apply.
  - iv. The Special Events License also requires a copy of insurance with coverage indemnifying the WDNR and its employees against all claims, damages, costs, and expenses including reasonable attorney's fees arising either from the management of the event or from any breach or default on the part of the Licensee in the performance of the license agreement, or from any negligence of the Licensee in the event. The Licensee shall purchase liability insurance to be effective the dates of the event and naming both the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and its employees and the Licensee as co-insured in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 single limit per occurrence including coverage of \$1,000,000.00 for bodily injury, including death, and \$25,000.00 property damage so the Department and its employees will be protected from any liability arising out of conducting the event by the Licensee.

d. Camping

- i. Anyone wishing to camp in any state park, forest, trail, or recreation area must camp in designated areas established by the WDNR. Campgrounds and campsites on Park System properties are licensed through the State Department of Health Services (DHS) under administrative code. Local Health Departments typically license campgrounds in their jurisdiction under the delegation of DHS. For Richard Bong State Recreation Area, Kenosha County Health Department licenses the campgrounds and campsites at the property. Dog trial event organizers who wish to request allowance for event participants to camp in places other than the designated campgrounds may request special event camping through the property manager. If the property manager is in agreement to allowing special event camping, the event holder must submit and/or list the WDNR Special Events Use License (DNR Form 2200-127) the parameters of the event, to ensure camping is in accordance with DHS administrative code 178. In addition to the WDNR Special Use Permit, A “special event” camping license from the Kenosha may be required and listed in the WDNR Special Events License. The dog trial event coordinator would be required to contact Kenosha County to apply for a special event campground license. Under code 178, a single event involving the gathering of camping units for a maximum of 7 consecutive nights shall submit a letter of application for a permit to the DHS or agent at least 7 days prior to opening. At a minimum, the application shall include the location of the event, an estimate of the number of people to be accommodated, the number of, type and provisions for servicing and maintaining toilet facilities to be provided, the water supply source and distribution method, and the method of handling solid and liquid waste. The use of generators within the State Park System is prohibited, unless there is a medical need that is established in the DNR Special Use Permit. The State Park System encourages visitors to use batteries.
- ii. Each event organizer that wishes to allow camping in undesignated areas would have to apply for a new WDNR Special Event Use License and DHS “Special Event” Campground License, unless waived by the county health department.

Kenosha County Health Department  
Environmental Manager  
Mark Melotik REHS/RS  
262-605-6745, mark.melotik@co.kenosha.wi.us  
8600 Sheridan Road, Suite 600  
Kenosha, WI 53143-6515

e. Closures

- i. In the case of flooding or other events that render the grounds unsuitable or unsafe for events, the property manager will notify organizations as soon as possible regarding closures. Partial closures may occur, leaving some of the grounds open to events.

f. ATVs

- i. The use of one all-terrain vehicle (ATV) or Utility Vehicle (UTV) is allowed to be used for stocking birds during dog trial events by event staff, providing the following conditions are met. A second ATV or UTV may be allowed as a condition of the trialing permit. All riders must be in compliance with all DNR ATV regulations. Riders must also wear a high visibility vest and use proper eye protection. ATVs or UTVs must be properly registered with the display of the valid registration decals and the vehicle must have attached a high visibility flag and placard showing the public that the vehicle is equipment being used for the trial event.

g. Horse Use

- i. Horseback riding will be permitted during training in the Class 1 grounds and special permitted dog trails may be permitted in Class 1 and 2 grounds, except for the Foot Trial Area, conditional upon weather and condition of the grounds. No recreational horseback riding is permitted.
- ii. The RBSRA property manager will make a daily determination if horses may be used for training based on weather and the grounds condition. This determination will be recorded on the daily phone message at RBSRA. Horses will be allowed for trials unless there are extremely wet conditions.
- iii. During trials, horse use is limited to the judges, bird planters, marshals, handlers, scouts, and galleries.
- iv. To reduce damage to the grounds from horse use every effort should be made by trainers and trialers to limit horses to roads, the runway, and the dog trialing horse trail. RBFTA will educate its members about this.

h. User Conflicts

- i. WDNR has agreed to move the rocket launching area to outside the Class 1 area to the SW corner of the Class 2 grounds, north of the runway, funding dependent.

i. Roads Maintenance

- i. RBFTA would like the gravel roads maintained at a higher level.
  1. WDNR spent \$9K on grading and road maintenance in 2012 to address this problem.
  2. RBFTA spent \$2,000 to excavate the technical pond and spread the gravel on the runway, access roads, camping sites, and the horse trail.
  3. Cost estimate is approximately \$2,000 to do an annual grading. RBSRA manager will submit a capital development project for the maintenance of the roads since there is not enough money in the operations budget. Ideally they would be graded/maintained on a 1-2 year basis. RBFTA may contribute funds to this.

- j. Extension of Horse Trail
  - i. RBFTA would like to extend the existing gravel horse path further west into the grounds. WDNR is OK with investigating this proposal and will solicit DNR engineering to determine the best construction method and materials in 2013. If gravel is needed, it could be mined from the gravel pond and deepening it. If feasible, WDNR will apply for capital development or conservation infrastructure funds to do this project along with potential contributions from RBFTA.



## **Appendix A.**

### **522 FW 21**

# ***Allowable Recreational Activities and Related Facilities on Federal Assistance Lands***

Supersedes Director's Order 152, 07/01/2003

Date: August 18, 2006

Series: State Grant Programs

Part 522: Federal Assistance Program Guidance

Originating Office: Division of Federal Assistance

**21.1 What is the purpose of this chapter?** This chapter provides guidance on recreational activities and related facilities constructed on lands States acquire, develop, or manage with Federal Assistance funds under:

- A.** The Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs,
- B.** The Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program,
- C.** The State Wildlife Grants Program (non-Tribal), and
- D.** The Landowner Incentive Program (non-Tribal).

**21.2 To whom does this chapter apply?** This chapter applies to all Service personnel who administer grant funds through the programs in 21.1A through D.

**21.3 To what lands does this chapter apply?** This chapter applies to the following, unless otherwise specified in the grant agreement between the State fish and wildlife agency and the Service:

- A.** Lands States acquire with Federal Assistance funds, regardless of when they acquired them.
- B.** Lands States develop or improve with Federal Assistance funds for the useful life of the development or improvement (see [522 FW 18](#)).
- C.** Lands on which States conduct any Federal Assistance-funded management activities during the defined grant periods.

**21.4 What are the authorities for this chapter?**

- A.** Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 777).
- B.** Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669).
- C.** Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments, Real Property and Enforcement ([43 CFR 12.71\(b\)](#) and [12.83](#)).
- D.** Administrative Requirements for Federal Aid in Fish and Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Acts, Eligible Undertakings, Application of Federal Aid, Responsibilities, and Assurances ([50 CFR 80.5](#), [80.14\(b\)](#), [80.18\(c\)](#), and [80.21](#)).
- E.** Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005 (Pub. L. 108-447, 118 STAT. 2809).
- F.** Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Act (Pub. L. 109-148).

**21.5 What recreational activities and related facilities may States allow on lands they acquire, develop, or manage with Federal Assistance funds?** The State fish and wildlife agency determines what recreational activities and related facilities to allow on Federal Assistance supported lands, based on authorizing legislation.

**A.** The statutes and applicable regulations prohibit a State fish and wildlife agency from allowing recreational activities and related facilities that would interfere with the purpose for which the State acquired, developed, or is managing the land. This means that the State fish and wildlife agency may not allow an activity or facility that would interfere with the fulfillment of the grant objectives for restoration, conservation, management, and/or enhancement of fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats eligible for funding through the programs listed in [section 21.1](#).

**B.** The statutes and applicable regulations require that grants used to acquire, develop, or manage lands must have a purpose consistent with the Wildlife Restoration and Sport Fish Restoration Acts, the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program, the State Wildlife Grants Program (non-Tribal), or the Landowner Incentive Program (non-Tribal):

**(1)** States generally allow fish or wildlife-dependent activities (e.g., hunting, trapping, fishing, birding, wildlife photography, or viewing platforms) because these activities do not interfere with the purpose.

**(2)** States may allow recreational activities and related facilities that are not fish or wildlife-dependent (e.g. bicycling, swimming, rock climbing, kennels, stables, horseback riding) if they determine that the activities will not interfere with the purpose for which they acquired, developed, or are managing the land.

**C.** For the Federal Assistance programs identified in [section 21.1](#) that fund activities on private lands, it is the responsibility of the State and the private landowner to agree on allowable recreational activities and related facilities, consistent with [sections 21.5A and B](#).

**D.** At the request of the State fish and wildlife agency, the Service will confer on recreational activities or related facilities.

**21.6 Are costs attributable to recreational activities on lands States acquire, develop, or manage with Federal Assistance funds eligible for Federal Assistance funding?** A State may only recover costs attributable to recreational activities if the activity or facility is:

**A.** Allowable as [section 21.5](#) describes, and

**B.** Specified in the grant agreement.

**21.7 What is the Service's authority to review compliance with the statutes and regulations related to allowing recreational activities?** The State fish and wildlife agency has responsibility for the accountability and control of all assets, and has responsibility to determine if a recreational activity or related facility interferes with the purpose for which it acquired, developed, or is managing the land (see [43 CFR 12.71](#) and [50 CFR 80.18](#)). However, the Service has the right to review or inspect at any time to ensure compliance (see [50 CFR 80.21](#) and [43 CFR 12.83](#)).

**21.8 Must States include in the grant documents information about recreational activities and related facilities on lands they acquire, develop, or manage with Federal Assistance funds?** No. States do not need to include in grant documents a description of recreational activities and related facilities on lands they acquire, develop, or manage with Federal Assistance funds as long as:

**A.** The decision about what recreational activities and related facilities to allow remains with the State fish and wildlife agency,

**B.** The activities and related facilities do not interfere with the purpose for which they acquired, developed, or manage the lands, and

C. The cost of the activities and related facilities is not paid for with Federal Assistance funds.

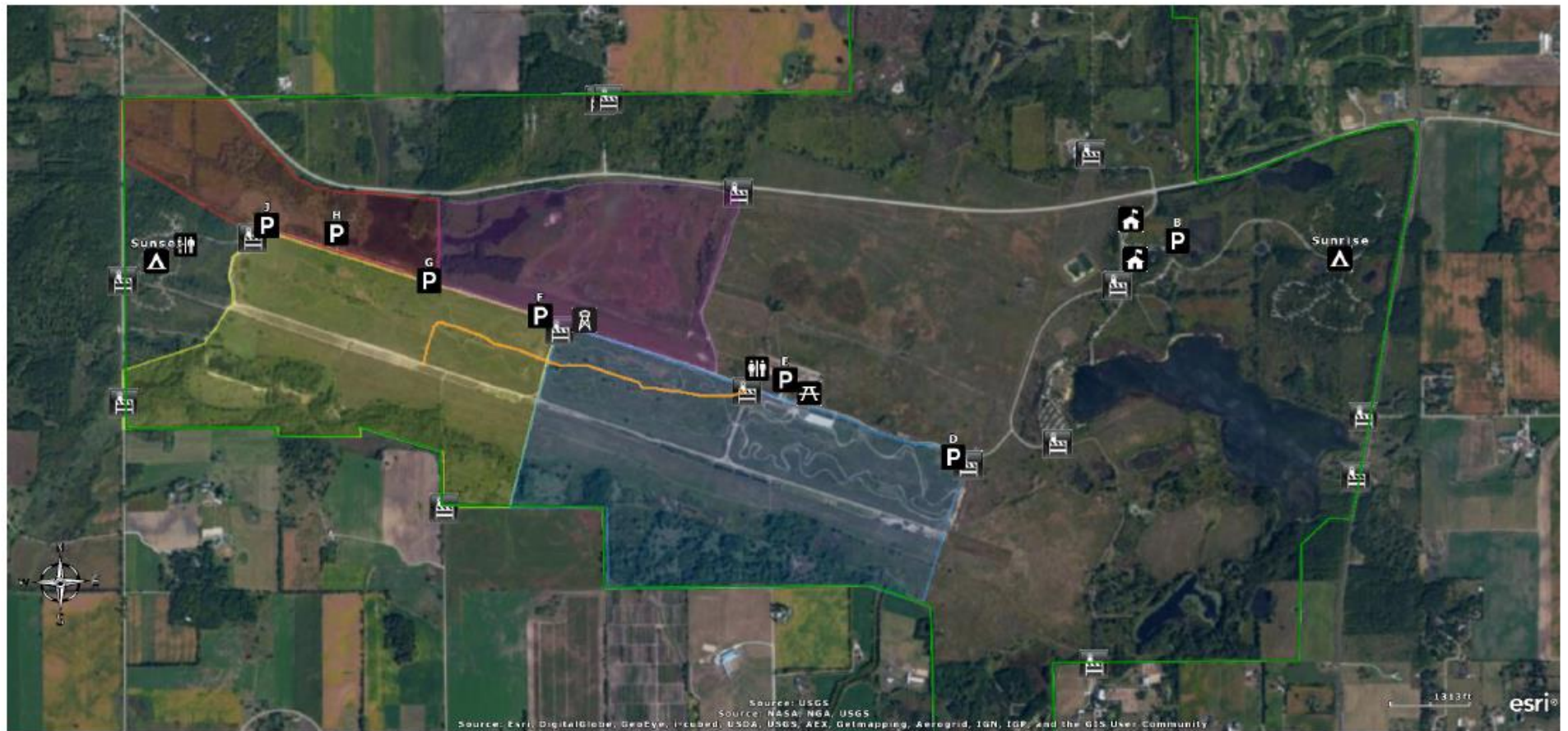
*For information on the specific content of this chapter, contact the Division of Federal Assistance. For additional information about this Web page, contact Krista Holloway, in the Division of Policy and Directives Management, at [Krista\\_Holloway@fws.gov](mailto:Krista_Holloway@fws.gov).*

*Visit the [Division of PDM Directives Home Page](#)*

*Visit the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Home Page](#)*

Map 1.

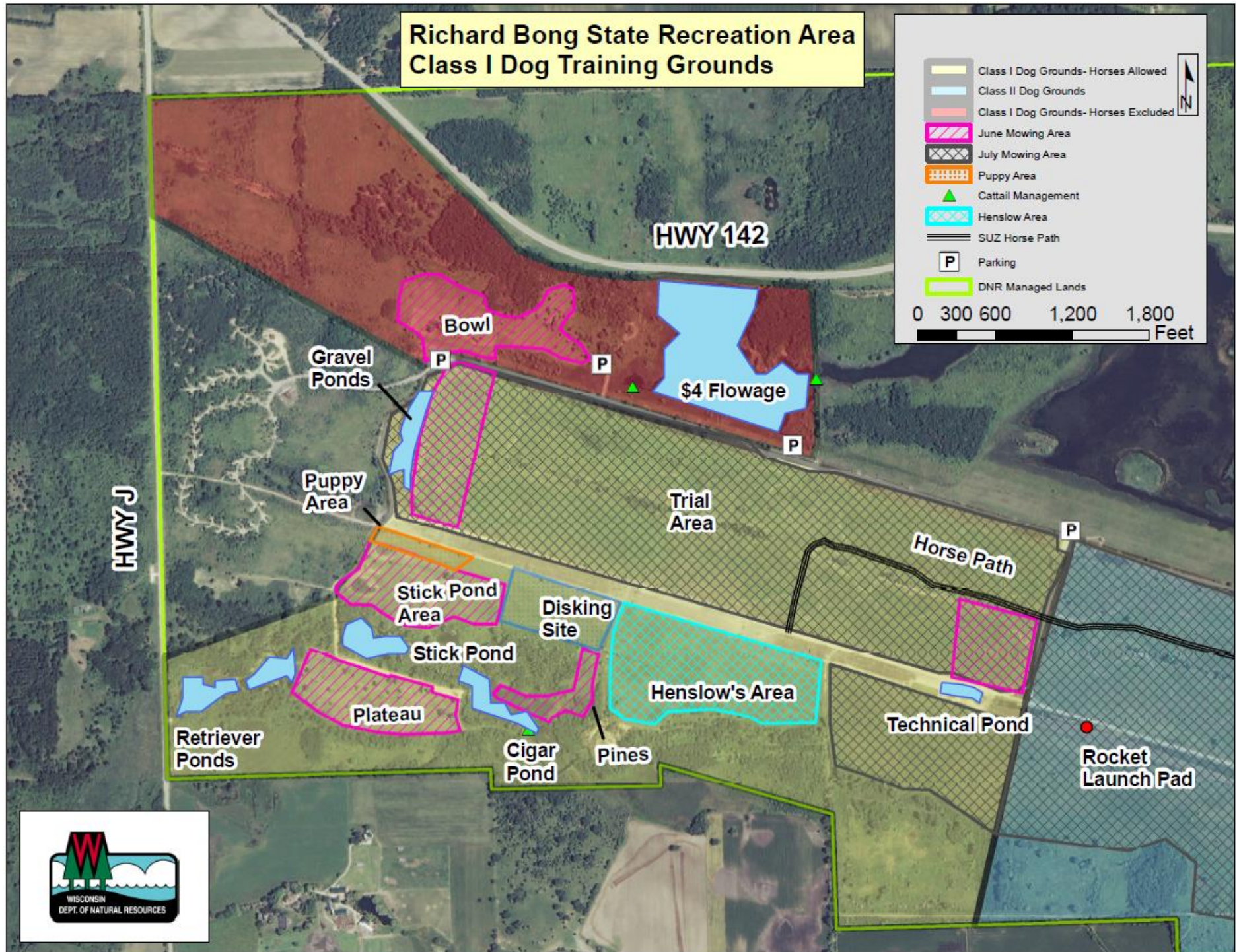
RICHARD BONG STATE RECREATION AREA  
DOG TRAINING GROUNDS SPECIAL USE ZONE



Foot Trials   Class I Grounds   Class II Ground   Refuge   Horse Path   Area Boundary   P Parking   Bathrooms   Picnic Shelter   Campground   Information   Observation Tower   Gate



Map 2.





Map 3.

